

# Megan Swann's "I'm a magical person" badge in a night!



Megan Swann is a magician and environmentalist, passionate about inspiring girls to love both magic and nature. In 2021, she became the first woman and youngest ever person to be elected as President of The Magic Circle, the world's most prestigious magic society. She also has a degree in wildlife conservation, and combines this knowledge with magic in her unique environmental magic show, inspiring everyone to save the planet.

"The two things I am most passionate about are magic and nature. I want to inspire more girls to love both as much as I do, and show them that young women can be successful even in a male dominated field!"

-Megan Swann

Want to earn your "I'm a magical person" badge? Spend at least a night having a go at the activities in this pack. Everyone should complete the magician's oath, learn and perform a trick and complete at least one other activity. You'll find the badge [in our shop](#).

## 1 The Magician's Oath

Tricks lose their magic if everyone knows how they work, so their secrets are really important to magicians. Secrets can only be passed on to students of magic; those who want to learn the secret so they can perform the trick themselves. So, before you have a go at any of the magical activities in this pack, you must take The Magician's Oath. You can speak it aloud together or sign your name on a piece of paper with the oath on it.

The Magician's Oath:

"I promise never to reveal the secret of any illusion to a non-magician, unless they swear uphold The Magician's Oath too. I also promise never to perform any magic trick for any non-magician without first practicing the effect until I can perform it well enough to maintain the illusion of magic."



## 2

## Watch a magician

Watching other magicians is a great way to get inspired, and to learn more about the art form. There are thousands of incredible magicians around, performing in many different styles. To watch a magician, you could:

- Go to a Girlguiding LaSER event Megan is performing at
- Book someone to perform in person – try contacting a local magic society for help
- Check out the videos Megan has provided – see “Megan’s tips and tricks” at the end of this pack
- Search YouTube – try searching “FISM” – It’s a competition, like the Olympics for magicians!

You could also ask everyone to research a magician ahead of time and show a video or tell you about the performer. How many different styles can you find?

## 3

## Learn a trick and perform it

Girls should learn a magic trick suited to their age and ability. Some ideas for where to find suitable tricks include:

- Checking out the simple tricks Megan has provided – see “Megan’s tips and tricks”
- Being taught a trick by a leader or someone else you know
- Taking a look in a library book for simple tricks
- Getting in touch with a local magician to see if they can visit the unit for a magic session
- Finding tutorials on online

You could ask some members to learn one in advance, then to teach other girls how to do it too.

Girls should be able to perform the trick to each other – this could be in front of the whole group, or within smaller groups. You could combine this activity with activity 5 and have everyone perform in a magical spectacular.



# 4

## Make a magic wand

The most famous symbol of a magician is the magic wand – it's even on the badge! Not all modern day magicians use wands, but many professionals still find they are a useful tool when doing secret moves! Making one is a great craft project which can be adapted to suit any group.

Wands can come in all shapes and sizes, from the classic black and white image, to wands with stars and glitter, to those we see in famous magical movies. Designs could be as simple or complex as you like! You could be inspired by natural environments, stars, the elements, technology, spookiness... the only limit is your imagination!

You could try using:

- Recycled materials – see what you can bring from home
- Chopsticks, bamboo, strong paper straws or pencils for the base
- Materials you find in nature, like sticks, leaves or feathers
- Washi tape for simple but colourful touches
- String, modelling clay, balled up paper, paint, papier mache and other craft materials to create texture
- Ribbons, string and beads to add adornments
- Shapes cut out of coloured card to add a 'topper' (like a star made of gold paper)
- For older girls, wood carving or burning can add amazing details in a unique way

Think about which methods and materials will be most appropriate for your group before you start planning, making sure you pick a suitable wand base. You might want to turn wand making into a whole night activity if you choose a more intricate or challenging method, or want to give everyone the opportunity to really get creative.



# 5

## Get creative with the presentation

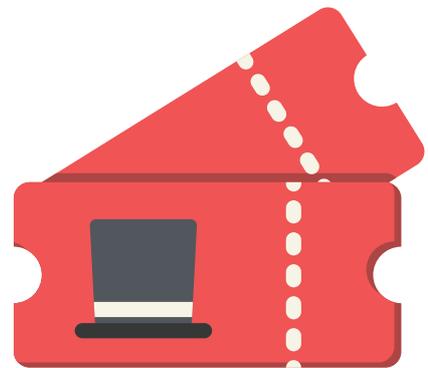
Megan likes to make her magic very unique, so you should think about how you can do the same. Challenge yourself to think about how you can present your tricks in a different way to everyone else. Are you aiming to be mysterious, spooky, funny, educational or something else? You might just want to show off the trick you've learned – that's ok too!

You could come up with your own magic words or actions. Lots of people use "abracadabra", but Megan often uses phrases like "Let's save nature". Other people make magical gestures, such as wiggling their fingers, toes, ears and nose. What magical words and actions can you come up with for your trick?

Try coming up with a story or a twist on what you say when you perform the trick. Does it work if you ask the audience to say the magic words and do the magic actions? Megan uses themes based on the things she cares about – perhaps your hobbies can provide some inspiration.

If you're going to perform to the whole group in small groups or teams, how will you work together to put on your magic show? Can you connect your tricks with a story or a theme? Do you all use the same magic words or actions?

Now – put on a show!



## Megan's tips and tricks

Megan has created a Google Drive folder with some videos and information you may find helpful, including some simple tricks and performances.

Follow this QR code using the camera on your phone or device, or go to <https://tinyurl.com/2a3j9879>.

